

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1.     *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films consisting essentially of:
  - a) between 40 and 80% by weight of a filmogenic substance consisting of a maltodextrin,
  - b) between 15 and 55% by weight of a plasticiser,
  - c) between 0.05% and 30% by weight of an active ingredient for food or pharmaceutical use, on the total weight of said films,wherein said films are free from hydrocolloids.
2.     *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the maltodextrin (a) has a dextrose content of less than 50 expressed in equivalents.
3.     *(Original)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 2 wherein said dextrose content is between 11 and 40.
4.     *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plasticiser is selected from the group consisting of polyalcohols, citric acid esters, sebacic acid esters or their mixtures.
5.     *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plasticiser is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, glycerine, sorbitol, maltitol and their mixtures.
6.     *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active principle for food use is an active principle with a breath freshening action and/or indicated for oral hygiene or an active principle suitable for nutritional supplementation.
7.     *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 6, wherein said active principle for food use is chosen from menthol and eugenol.
8.     *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 6, wherein said active principle suitable for nutritional supplementation is selected from the group consisting of mineral salts normally used for such purpose, and vitamins.

9.     *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 8 wherein the vitamin is ascorbic acid.
10.    *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein said active principle for therapeutic use is selected from the group consisting of active principles with essentially topical activity.
11.    *(Withdrawn)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 10, wherein said active principle is selected from the group consisting of antibacterial, antimycotic, antiviral agents and disinfectants of the oral cavity.
12.    *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1 wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of active ingredients with systemic activity.
13.    *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 12, wherein said active ingredient with systemic activity is selected from the group consisting of anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antipsychotic, hypnotic, anxiolytic, antihypertensive, myorelaxant, antimigraine, antiparkinsonian, antiemetic, antihistaminic, beta blocking and antiasthmatic agents.
14.    *(Previously presented)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: Piroxicam, Ketoprofen, Sodium diclofenac, Tramadol hydrochloride, Morphine, Nifedipine, Diazepam, Lorazepam, Alprazolam, 8romazepam, Triazolam, Lormetazepam, Zolpidem, Paracetamol, Selegiline, Atenolol, Salbutamol, Sumatriptan, Clozapine, Cetirizine, Ondansetron, Fentanyl and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.
15.    *(Cancelled)*
16.    *(Currently amended)* Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 1, also containing other excipients selected from the group consisting of anticaking agents, sweeteners, flavourings, colouring agents, preservatives, acidity regulating systems and mixtures thereof.

17. (*Previously presented*) Self-supporting films as claimed in claim 16, wherein said antisticking agents are selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, colloidal silica and talc.
18. (*Withdrawn*) Process for preparing self-supporting films claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:
- i) mixing the maltodextrin, plasticiser and active principle for food or therapeutic use,
  - ii) extruding the mixture coming from the preceding step.
19. (*Withdrawn*) Process as claimed in claim 18, wherein the extrusion step (ii) is preferably conducted at a temperature between 60 and 120°C.
20. (*Withdrawn*) Process as claimed in claim 18, conducted in a single screw extruder.
21. (*Previously presented*) Process for preparing self-supporting films claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:
- i) dispersing the maltodextrin, plasticiser and the active ingredient for therapeutic or food use in a polar solvent at a temperature between 60 and 105°C,
  - ii) rolling the mixture obtained in the preceding step onto a silicone paper and drying it,
  - iii) removing the silicone paper from the film obtained in the preceding step.
22. (*Previously presented*) The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polar solvent used in step (i) is selected from the group consisting of water, a water miscible solvent and mixtures thereof.
23. (*Previously presented*) Process as claimed in claim 22, wherein said solvent consists of water and a water-ethanol mixture.
24. (*Previously presented*) Process as claimed in claim 23, wherein the temperature of steps (i) and (ii) is between 60 and 105°C.

25. (*Withdrawn*) Process for preparing self-supporting films claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:

- i) mixing the maltodextrin, plasticiser and active ingredient for food or therapeutic use,
- ii) granulating, sieving the mixture and mixing it with an anti sticking agent, iii) storing the granules at least for 12 h,
- iv) extruding the granules coming from the preceding step thereby obtaining the edible film.

26. (*Withdrawn*) Process as claimed in claim 25, wherein the extrusion step (ii) is conducted at a temperature between 70 and 140°C.

27. (*Canceled*)